

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03085 041225Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /074 W  
-----017359 041227Z /64

O 041216Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7304  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 03085

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, GE, US  
SUBJECT: COMMEMORATION OF END OF WORLD WAR II

REF: BERLIN 2753

1. WE RECEIVED ON MAY 3 A FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED STATE AND MINISTERIAL COUNCILS TO MAY 8 CEREMONIES DISCUSSED REFTEL. THE INVITATION, WHICH IS ADDRESSED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, NOT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, STATES THAT THE INVITATION IS FOR A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT TREPTOW AND A PERFORMANCE AT THE STATE OPERA, BOTH "ON THE OCCASION OF THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION FROM HITLER FASCISM BY THE GLORIOUS SOVIET ARMY."

2. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT IN THE INVITATION IS IN CONTRAST TO THE TEXT OF THE MFA CIRCULAR NOTE TO CHIEFS OF MISSION (REFTEL) WHICH REFERS ONLY TO LIBERATION FROM FASCISM AND WREATHLAYING AT THE MONUMENT TO FALLEN SOVIET  
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HEROES.

3. I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM SOVIET AMB. ABRASSIMOV TO ATTEND A RECEPTION ON THE EVENING OF MAY 8 ON THE OCCASION OF THE 'DAY OF THE VICTORY OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR AND THE DESTRUCTION OF HITLER FASCISM."

4. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE FORMULATION IN THE INVITATIONS THAT THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF ALL THREE FUNCTIONS IS TO EXTOLL THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET ARMY IN WWII AND TO HONOR THE SOVIET MILITARY. AS WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR, THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ALLIES IN WWII WILL PROBABLY BE IGNORED OR NOT SUFFICIENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

5. IN LIGHT OF THIS I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ATTEND MAY 8 CEREMONIES. AN ALTERNATE COURSE COULD BE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE IN MY PLACE TO THE TREPTOW AND STATE OPERA FUNCTIONS AND FOR ME TO ATTEND SOVIET RECEPTION.

6. AS UK AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN ARE OBSERVING A HOLIDAY, I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT WITH UK AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS ABOUT THE INVITATIONS BUT WILL DO SO AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, TOMORROW, MAY 5.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MAY 5. BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAR  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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